

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Paul Crocker *et al.*

Appln. No.: 10/590,806

Int'l Filing Date: August 25, 2006

Title: Improvements in or Relating to Table Coverings

Confirmation No.: 2181

Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: P30747US00 / 20423.003

**Request for Corrected Filing Receipt**

**ATTENTION: Office of Initial Patent Examination**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached is a copy of a Filing Receipt for the above-referenced application for which issuance of a corrected filing receipt is respectfully requested. There are errors with respect to the following data:

**Please make the following correction to the section entitled "FIL FEE REC'D", which is marked on the attached copy of the corrected filing receipt:**

**please change the number "500" to "575".**

In support of this correction, Applicants submit herewith a copy of the Transmittal Letter and a copy of the Transmittal Letter to the U.S. Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) submitted in this application.

**Please make the following correction to the section entitled "TOT CLMS", which is marked on the attached copy of the corrected filing receipt:**

**please change the number "22" to "25".**

**Please make the following correction to the section entitled "IND CLMS", which is marked on the attached copy of the corrected filing receipt:**

**please change the number "1" to "3".**

In support of these corrections, Applicants submit herewith a copy of the application and the preliminary amendment, each as submitted at the time of filing, resulting in a total of 3 independent claims and 25 total claims.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, we note that in the transmittal letter, a copy of which is attached hereto, Applicants authorized the Commissioner to charge \$575 of fees to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387. This amount was charged to the above referenced account number at the time of filing. However, on April 26, 2007, the Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387 was credited \$75, referencing the matter number for the above referenced application. The credit of \$75 appears to be in error and appears to be a consequence of the filing receipt reflecting, in error, that a total of 22 claims were filed in the above referenced application instead of 25 claims. If it is determined that such credit is in error, authorization is hereby given to charge \$75 to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 20423.003.

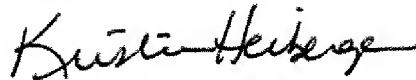
In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees, other than the fees referenced above (\$75), are due in conjunction with this filing.

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<sup>1</sup> On March 16, 2007, Applicants filed a Second Preliminary Amendment whereby Applicants amended the claims, resulting in a total of 23 claims with 2 independent claims.

However, if any fees are required in the present application, authorization is hereby given to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 20423.003.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Heiberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristina" and last name "Heiberger" clearly distinguishable.

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)

Lisa A. Adelson (Reg. No. 51,204)

Kristina M. Heiberger (Reg. No. 58,718)

Date: July 19, 2007

ARNOLD & PORTER LLP  
Attn: IP Docketing  
555 Twelfth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-1206  
(202) 942-5000 telephone  
(202) 942-5999 facsimile



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
 United States Patent and Trademark Office  
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
 www.uspto.gov

| APPL NO.   | FILING OR 371(c)<br>DATE | ART UNIT | FIL FEE REC'D | ATTY. DOCKET NO      | TOT CLMS | IND CLMS |
|------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| 10/590,806 | 08/25/2006               | 1733     | 500<br>575    | P30747US00/20423.003 | 22<br>25 | 1<br>3   |

CONFIRMATION NO. 2181

28381  
 ARNOLD & PORTER LLP  
 ATTN: IP DOCKETING DEPT.  
 555 TWELFTH STREET, N.W.  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20004-1206

## FILING RECEIPT



\*OC000000023560720\*

Date Mailed: 04/27/2007

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

## Applicant(s)

Paul Crocker, London, UNITED KINGDOM;  
 Lloyd Anthony Keisner, London, UNITED KINGDOM;

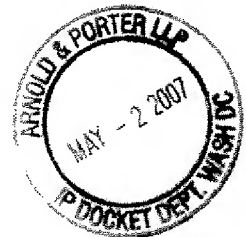
**Power of Attorney:** The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 28381.

## Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a 371 of PCT/GB05/00075 01/13/2005

## Foreign Applications

UNITED KINGDOM 0407540.4 04/02/2004  
 UNITED KINGDOM 0410933.6 05/17/2004  
 UNITED KINGDOM 0411705.7 05/26/2004  
 UNITED KINGDOM 0412789.0 06/09/2004



If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 04/26/2007

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US10/590,806**

Projected Publication Date: 08/02/2007

Non-Publication Request: No

**Early Publication Request:** No

**\*\* SMALL ENTITY \*\***

**Title**

Improvements in or relating to table coverings

**Preliminary Class**

156

## **PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

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### **LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER Title 35, United States Code, Section 184 Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15**

#### **GRANTED**

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier

license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

#### **NOT GRANTED**

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).

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ARNOLD & PORTER LLP

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Lisa A. Adelson  
Lisa.Adelson@aporter.com  
202.942.5325  
202.942.5999 Fax  
555 Twelfth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004-1206

August 25, 2006

COPY

**Mail Stop PCT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. § 371 National Phase Application  
Based on International Application No. PCT/GB05/000075  
International Filing Date: 13 January 2005  
Appln. No.: To Be Assigned  
Filed: Herewith  
Title: **Improvements in or Relating to Table Coverings**  
Applicants: Paul CROCKER *et al.*  
Atty. Docket: P30747US00/20423.003

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S.

Patent and Trademark Office (PTO):

1. Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US)  
Concerning a Filing Under 35 U.S.C. 371 (in duplicate);
2. a copy of the Published International Application WO 2005/095099 A1 entitled:

**Improvements in or Relating to Table Coverings**

and naming as applicants:

**Paul CROCKER and Lloyd Anthony KEISNER;**

the application containing:

- (i) 7 pages of a description prior to the claims and an abstract;
- (ii) 3 pages of claims; and

- (iii) 3 pages of drawings (Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9);
3. a copy of the International Search Report for PCT/GB2005/000075 as published in WO 2005/095099 A1;
  4. an original Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application executed by Paul CROCKER and Lloyd Anthony KEISNER;
  5. a copy of Form PCT/IB/304 (Notification Concerning Submission or Transmittal of Priority Document);
  6. a copy of Form PCT/ISA/237 (Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority);
  7. a copy of Applicants' 5 June 2006 correspondence to the International Bureau of WIPO and new independent claims 24 and 25;
  8. a copy of Form PCT/IB/306 (Notification of the Recording of a Change);
  9. a Preliminary Amendment to Priority Information and Claims; and
  10. two (2) return postcards.

Applicants request that \$575.00 for the following fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number P30747US00/20423.003:

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| <u>\$150.00</u> | basic national fee;    |
| <u>\$100.00</u> | examination fee;       |
| <u>\$200.00</u> | search fee; and        |
| <u>\$125.00</u> | additional claims fee. |



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ARNOLD & PORTER LLP

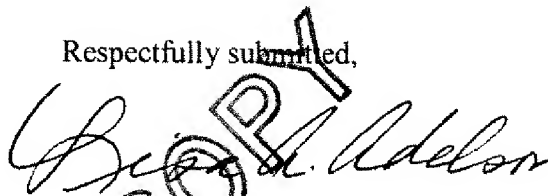
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Commissioner for Patents  
Atty. Dkt.: P30747US00/20423.003  
August 25, 2006  
Page 3

Please stamp one of the two attached postcards with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier, and stamp the other prepaid postcard with the filing date and unofficial application number and return it as soon as possible.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees, other than the above fees (\$575) are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any additional fees are required in the present application, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number P30747US00/20423.003. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)  
Lisa A. Adelson (Reg. No. 51,204)

Attachments

# COPY

PTO-1390 (Rev. 07-2005)

Approved for use through 3/31/2007. OMB 0651-0021

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

## ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

P30747US00/20423.003

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

To Be Assigned

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/GB2005/000075

## INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

13 January 2005 (13.01.2005)

## PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

02 April 2004 (02.04.2004)

TITLE OF INVENTION: Improvements in or Relating to Table Coverings

## APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Paul CROCKER and Lloyd Anthony KEISNER

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
  2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
  3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
  4. ☐ The US has been elected (Article 31).
  5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
    - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
    - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
    - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
  6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
    - a. ☐ is attached hereto.
    - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
  7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
    - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
    - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
    - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
    - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
  8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
  9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
  10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).
- Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:
11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
  12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
  13. ☒ A preliminary amendment.
  14. ☐ An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76
  15. ☐ A substitute specification.
  16. ☐ A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.
  17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821 - 1.825.
  18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
  19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.414 and 1.491-1.492. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public, which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 15 minutes to complete, including gathering information, preparing, and submitting the completed form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing the burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

|   |              |   |             |                          |              |
|---|--------------|---|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)   |              | INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.   |             | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER |              |
| To Be Assigned  |              | PCT/GB2005/000075   |             | P30747US00/20423.003     |              |
| 20. Other items or information: a) a copy of Published International Application together with International Search Report, Publication No. WO 2005/095099 A1; b) a copy of a Notification Concerning Submission or Transmittal of Priority Document; c) a copy of a Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority; d) a copy of Applicants' 5 June 2006 correspondence to the International Bureau of WIPO and new independent claims 24 and 25; and e) a copy of a Notification of the Recording of a Change |              |   |             |                          |              |
| The following fees have been submitted:   |              |   |             | Calculations             | PTO Use Only |
| 21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic national fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)).....   |              |   |             |                          |              |
| \$300.00  |              |   |             | \$ 300.00                |              |
| 22. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examination fee (37 CFR 1.492(c))   |              |   |             |                          |              |
| If the written opinion prepared by ISA/US or the international preliminary examination report prepared by IPEA/US indicates all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) .....  |              |   |             | \$0                      |              |
| All other situations .....  |              |   |             | \$ 200.00                |              |
| \$200.00  |              |   |             |                          |              |
| 23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Search fee.....   |              |   |             |                          |              |
| \$400.00  |              |   |             |                          |              |
| If the written opinion of the ISA/US or the international preliminary examination report prepared by IPEA/US indicates all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4).....  |              |   |             | \$0                      |              |
| Search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) has been paid on the international application to the USPTO as an International Search Authority .....  |              |   |             |                          |              |
| \$100.00  |              |   |             |                          |              |
| International Search Report prepared by an ISA other than the US and provided to the Office or previously communicated to the US by the IB .....  |              |   |             | \$ 400.00                |              |
| \$400.00  |              |   |             |                          |              |
| All other situations .....  |              |   |             |                          |              |
| \$500.00  |              |   |             |                          |              |
| TOTAL OF 21, 22 and 23 =  |              |   |             | \$ 900.00                |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing in compliance with 37 CFR 1.821(c) or (e) or computer program listing in an electronic medium) (37 CFR 1.492(j)).   |              |   |             |                          |              |
| The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.  |              |   |             | \$ - 0 -                 |              |
| Total Sheets  | Extra Sheets | Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number) | Rate        |                          |              |
| -100=   | /50=         | -0-   | X \$250.00  | \$ - 0 -                 |              |
| Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e))   |              |   |             | \$ - 0 -                 |              |
| CLAIMS  | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA  | RATE        |                          |              |
| Total claims  | 25 - 20 =    | - 5 -   | x \$ 250.00 | \$ 250.00                |              |
| Independent claims  | 3 - 3 =      | - 0 -   | x \$ 200.00 | \$ - 0 -                 |              |
| MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)   |              |   | + \$ 360.00 | \$ - 0 -                 |              |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =   |              |   |             | \$ 1,150.00              |              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.   |              |   |             | \$ 575.00                |              |
| SUBTOTAL =  |              |   |             | \$ 575.00                |              |
| Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).   |              |   |             | \$ - 0 -                 |              |
| TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =  |              |   |             | \$                       |              |
| Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property  |              |   |             | - 0 -                    |              |
| +   |              |   |             |                          |              |
| TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =   |              |   |             | \$ 575.00                |              |
| Amount to be refunded:  |              |   |             | \$                       |              |
| charged:  |              |   |             | \$                       |              |

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

|   |                               |                          |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) | INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER |
| To Be Assigned                                  | PCT/GB2005/000075             | P30747US00/20423.003     |

a. ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

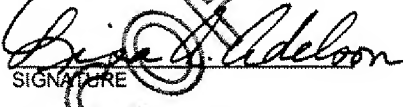
b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-2387 in the amount of \$575.00 to cover the above fees.  
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2387. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

**NOTE:** Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.496 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a)) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

  
SIGNATURE  
Lisa A. Adelson (Reg. No. 51,204)

**Customer No. 28381**

Date: August 25, 2006

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



COPY

(43) International Publication Date  
13 October 2005 (13.10.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/095099 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>:  
A47G 11/00, G09F 23/06

B32B 7/06,

(74) Agent: SAUNDERS & DOLLEYMORE; 9 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD18 0JU (GB).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2005/000075

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 13 January 2005 (13.01.2005)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

|           |                           |    |
|-----------|---------------------------|----|
| 0407540.4 | 2 April 2004 (02.04.2004) | GB |
| 0410933.6 | 17 May 2004 (17.05.2004)  | GB |
| 0411705.7 | 26 May 2004 (26.05.2004)  | GB |
| 0412789.0 | 9 June 2004 (09.06.2004)  | GB |

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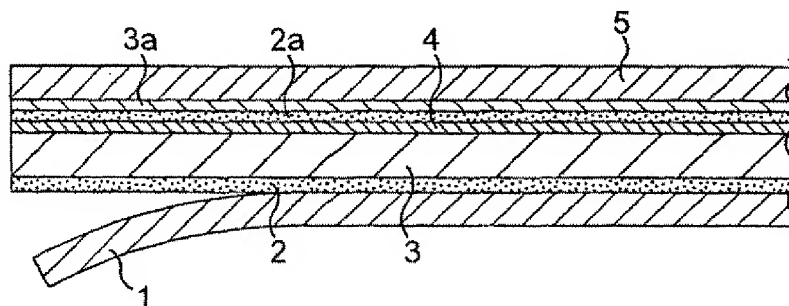
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO TABLE COVERINGS



(57) Abstract: A covering, particularly for tables, comprises a layer of semi-permanent adhesive (2) on a clear polymer carrier layer (3) bearing a printed display layer (4). The covering may additionally comprise a substrate (1) of release paper to assist in applying the covering. The covering can be used semi-permanently to cover tables in restaurants and bars for examples, enabling the cover to be removed after a selected period. The cover may be used to present advertising material and may permit the table top to be visible through non-printed regions of the covering.

- 1 -

**Improvements in or Relating to Table Coverings**

This invention relates to coverings for a table or similar surfaces and, in particular, to such coverings which are particularly suitable for use in commercial eating and/or  
5 drinking establishments such as restaurants or cafés.

In such establishments, it is well known to locate promotional material on the tables. This may be in the form of beer mats or it may be printed on place mats of paper or plastic. Inherently, promotional material provided in this way is removable and limited in scope.

10

An object of the present invention is to provide a table covering which may be used to convert the table top into a promotional medium, is not readily removed or damages by customers and yet may be replaced after a specified length of time. The covering may cover the whole table or may provide a display on part only of said table top.

15

Thus, according to the present invention a covering for application to a surface top comprises

- i) a semi-permanent adhesive layer to be in contact with the top,
  - ii) a clear carrier layer,
  - 20 iii) a display layer which is printed on the carrier layer,
- wherein the table covering is arranged such that when applied to a surface top the nature of the covering is not readily visible except for the printed area, permitting the surface top to be visible through a substantial portion of the covering.

25 Preferably, the covering additionally comprises a substrate of release paper to be removed before application of the covering to a surface to assist in applying the covering to the surface. However, the covering could alternately be rolled up with the adhesive layer exposed on one side as the covering is unrolled for application to a surface.

30 The covering is preferably a table covering applied to a table top.

- 2 -

The method by which a table covering of the present invention is used to finish a table top comprises providing a smooth table surface which is free of protuberances and applying to the table top the table covering described in the preceding paragraph, whilst removing the layer (i) of release paper from the table covering to allow the semi-permanent adhesive layer (ii) to adhere to the table top. When necessary any air bubbles which are trapped beneath the table covering may be forced out using a suitable roller or squeegee.

The table covering may be made to cover substantially the whole of the table top with preferably any gap between the covering and the edge of the table is no more than 50 mm. If desired, the table covering may be of a shape and size to wrap over a part or parts of one or more edges of the table top to which it is applied, but preferably the shape and size of each table covering in accordance with the invention is such as to avoid the table covering having to be folded or pleated when it is applied to the table.

The printed display layer of the covering may extend over the whole area of the table covering, or it may be discontinuous and the printed display may consist of decorative and/or advertising material.

The table covering of the invention may be made to cover substantially the whole of the table top with the display layer substantially less in area than the table, the positioning of display layer in relation to the table top being chosen to suit the particular circumstances of the case.

If desired, the table covering may be of a size and/or shape suitable to extend only over a part of a table top.

The printed display layer of the covering may extend over substantially the whole area of the table covering if the latter is to cover only a part of the table top. On the other hand, the display layer may be located on only a minor portion of the table covering. The printed display may consist of decorative and/or advertising material.

- 3 -

It is a feature of the invention that the nature of the table covering is not to be readily visible, except for the printed area, to the customer using the table, permitting the table top to be visible through the non-printed areas, hence the carrier layer of polymer film and the semi-permanent adhesive layer beneath are to be totally clear, the appearance of the covering thus being in the nature of a finish on the table top. For this reason, the thickness of the film is important, the preferred thickness of the clear film being in the range 10 to 100 microns, more preferably 15 to 70 microns. The polymer used for the film is preferably flexible thermoplastic polyester such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

In use, the table covering of the invention is to be replaced at regular intervals of, for example, one month. Hence, the role of the semi-permanent adhesive is to grip the table top securely whilst the table covering is in use and yet allow complete removal and replacement of the table covering at the end of the desired period. The preferred adhesives are water clear, solvent based acrylic adhesives.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the table covering includes a second layer of polymer film which is to protect the printed layer and is glued over the printed display layer by means of a second layer of adhesive. The second layer of polymer film may be of a material approved for food contact applications. The glue by which it is applied is preferably an adhesive which is approved for indirect food contact applications. The preferred materials are clear oriented polypropylene (OPP) film for the protective polymer layer and clear EVA adhesive for the glue.

Preferably, the second layer of the polymer film has a thickness in the range 5 to 20 microns.

The method used to apply the table covering is simple, but care must be taken to make sure that the surface to which the covering is applied is clean and smooth and free of protuberances such as could be cause blemishes or solid particles (such as salt) on the



surface.

Since the carrier layer of polymer film is itself thin and some precision is required in applying the table covering to the table top, in a further embodiment of the invention, an additional layer of release paper is provided on the top surface of the table covering, ie on the surface opposite to that of the substrate layer (i). The second layer of release paper is provided to make handling of the table covering easier. Depending upon the nature of the carrier layer of the table covering, it may be removed before or after application of the table covering to a table top has been carried out. In general, the thinner the carrier layer the more likely it is that the second layer of release paper will be retained on the table covering until after the table covering has been applied to a table top.

The invention will now be described in more detail, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings illustrating application of the covering to a table top, however the invention is not in any way limited to only table top applications. In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a sketch showing a magnified cross section of a part of a table covering according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a similar sketch of a second embodiment of the invention;

Figure 3 is a sketch showing a plan view of a rectangular table covering in accordance with the invention;

Figure 4 is a sketch showing a plan view of a circular table covering in accordance with the invention on a table top;

Figure 5 is a sketch showing a plan view of another embodiment of circular table covering in accordance with the invention;

Figure 6 is a sketch showing a perspective view of the rectangular table covering of Figure 3 during its application to a table top;

Figure 7 is a sketch showing a perspective view of a square table covering during its application to a square table top;

Figure 8 is a sketch showing a plan view of a rectangular table covering in

- 5 -

accordance with the invention; and

Figure 9 is a sketch showing a plan view of a circular table covering in accordance with the invention on a table top.

5       The table covering shown in Figure 1 consists of a substrate 1 of release paper, a layer of semi-permanent adhesive 2 on a carrier layer of polymer 3 bearing a printed display layer 4 and glued over the printed layer 4 by means of a second layer of adhesive 2a, a second layer of polymer film 3a. However, in an alternative embodiment, not illustrated, the release paper may be omitted with the covering being rolled up prior to application, such that the adhesive layer is exposed as the covering is unrolled immediately prior to application to the table top.

15       The semi-permanent adhesive of layer 2 is a solvent based water clear acrylic adhesive and layer 2 has a thickness of approximately 25 microns.

15       The carrier layer 3 is made from a commercially available clear PET film having a thickness of 38 microns, printed on which is the printed layer 4.

20       The printed display layer 4 is protected by the second layer of polymer 3a which is made from clear oriented polypropylene film having a thickness of approximately 8 microns. The adhesive layer 2a, by means of which the second polymer layer is attached, is made from a clear EVA adhesive.

25       The embodiment shown in Figure 2 is similar to that shown in Figure 1 except that the table covering of Figure 2 includes, on the second polymer layer 3a, a second layer of release paper 5 to assist in application of the covering to a table top.

30       Figure 3 shows a plan from above, a rectangular table covering in which the carrier layer of clear PET film 6 carries a printed layer 7 which is smaller in area than the carrier layer.

- 6 -

Figure 4 is a plan view showing a circular table covering in position on a circular table top 8. The table covering is also circular and its size is such that the edge 9 of the carrier layer of clear polymer film 10 is 10 mm from the edge of the table top.

5        The distance of the edge 11 of the printed area of the table covering from the edge 9 of the clear polymer film is not critical and depends upon the nature of the display material comprising the printed layer.

10       Figure 5 shows, in plan from above, a circular table covering in which the carrier layer of clear polymer film 12 has tabs 13 around its edge which are designed in use to wrap over the edge of a circular table top to provide additional anchorage for the table covering.

15       Figure 6 is a perspective view illustrating the method of application of the table coverings of this invention, using as an example the rectangular table covering of Figure 3.

20       The table covering is applied from one end of a rectangular table top 14 and in this case, the carrier layer 15 is long enough to wrap over the end 16 of the table top. During application, the release paper layer (not shown in the sketch) is removed from the table covering to expose the semi-permanent adhesive layer of the table covering and enable the table covering to adhere to the smooth table top which has been provided.

25       Figure 7 is a perspective view illustrating the application to a table top of another table covering in accordance with the invention.

30       In this case, a square table covering 17 is being applied to a square table top 18, a layer of release paper 19 being steadily removed from the table covering to expose adhesive as the table covering is applied.

30       The printed display layer of the table covering 17 extends over the whole area of the

- 7 -

table covering and the edges 20 of the table covering 17 are positioned 10 mm from the edges of the table top 18, there being no wrap-over of the table covering onto the edges of the table top in this embodiment.

5           Figure 8 shows, in plan from above, a rectangle table 21 bearing a table covering 22 extending only over the central "spine" of the table top. In this embodiment, the carrier layer of clear PET film may wrap over the ends of the table top (not shown) and carries a printed layer which extends over the whole area of the carrier layer which is on the top surface of the table.

10

Figure 9 is a plan view showing a circular table covering 23 in position on a circular table top 24. The table covering is also circular and its size is such that the edge 25 of the carrier layer of clear polymer film is 10 mm from the edge of the table top.

15           The printed area of the table covering is a small area 26 in the centre of the table covering.

Although described above with application to a table, the table covering can be applied to similar surfaces such as a bar or counter top.

Claims

1. A covering for application to a surface top comprises
  - i) a semi-permanent adhesive layer to be in contact with the top,
  - 5 ii) a clear carrier layer,
  - iii) a display layer which is printed on the carrier layer,wherein the table covering is arranged such that when applied to a surface top the nature of the covering is not readily visible except for the printed area, permitting the surface top to be visible through a substantial portion of the covering.
- 10 2. A covering as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a substrate of release paper to be removed before application of the covering to a surface.
- 15 3. A table covering as claimed in Claim 1, arranged to cover substantially all of the surface top.
- 20 4. A covering according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the covering is made to cover substantially the whole of the surface top, but the display layer is substantially less in area than the carrier layer.
- 25 5. A covering according to Claim 1 or 2, which is of a size and/or shape suitable to extend only over a part of a surface top.
6. A covering as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the clear carrier layer has a thickness of not more than 100 microns.
7. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the thickness of the clear carrier layer is in the range 10 to 100 microns.
- 30 8. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the thickness of the clear

- 9 -

carrier layer is in the range 15 to 70 microns.

9. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the clear carrier layer is a polyethylene terephthalate film.

5

10. A covering according to any preceding claim, which includes a layer of polymer film which is to protect the display layer and is glued over the display layer by means of a second layer of adhesive.

10 11. A covering according to Claim 10, in which the layer of polymer film is made from clear oriented polypropylene.

12. A covering according to Claim 10 or 11, in which the layer of polymer film has a thickness in the range 5 to 20 microns.

15

13. A covering according to Claim 10, 11 or 12, in which the layer of adhesive is a clear EVA adhesive.

14. A covering according to Claim 10, 11, 12 or 13, wherein, the layer of polymer film  
20 is a material approved for food contact applications.

15. A covering according to preceding claim, which comprises additionally a second layer of release paper on the surface of the covering opposite to said substrate, the second layer of release paper being an aid to handling of the covering during its application to a  
25 surface top.

16. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the printed display layer is discontinuous.

30 17. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the semi-permanent

- 10 -

adhesive layer comprises a solvent-based water clear acrylic adhesive.

18. A covering according to any preceding claim, wherein the clear carrier layer is a polymer.

5

19. A table covering comprising a covering as claimed in any preceding claim for application to table, wherein said surface top is a table top.

20. A method of finishing a table top which comprises providing a smooth table surface which is free of protuberances and applying to the table top a table covering in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, the layer (i) of release paper being removed from the table covering to allow the semi-permanent adhesive layer (ii) to adhere to the table top.

10

21. A method of finishing a table top according to Claim 20, in which the table covering includes a second layer of release paper on the surface of the covering opposite to the said substrate, to facilitate handling of the table covering.

15

22. A method according to Claim 20 or 21, in which the edge or edges of the table covering which are on the table top are not more than 50 mm, from the edge of the table top.

20

23. A method according to Claim 20, 21 or 22, in which the table covering is of a shape and size to wrap over a part or parts of one or more edges of the table top to which it is applied.

25

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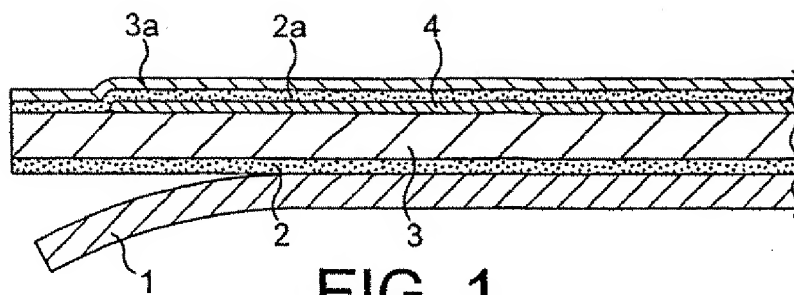


FIG. 1

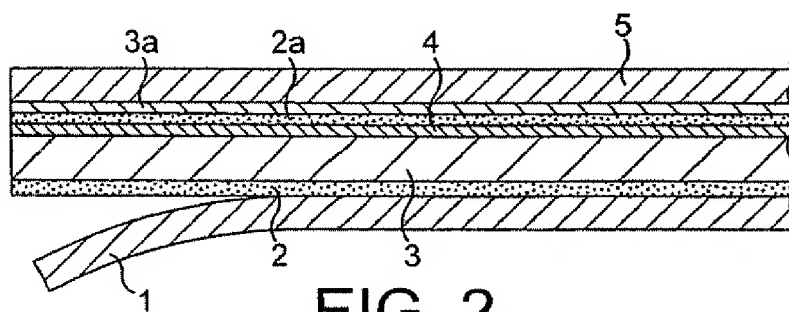


FIG. 2

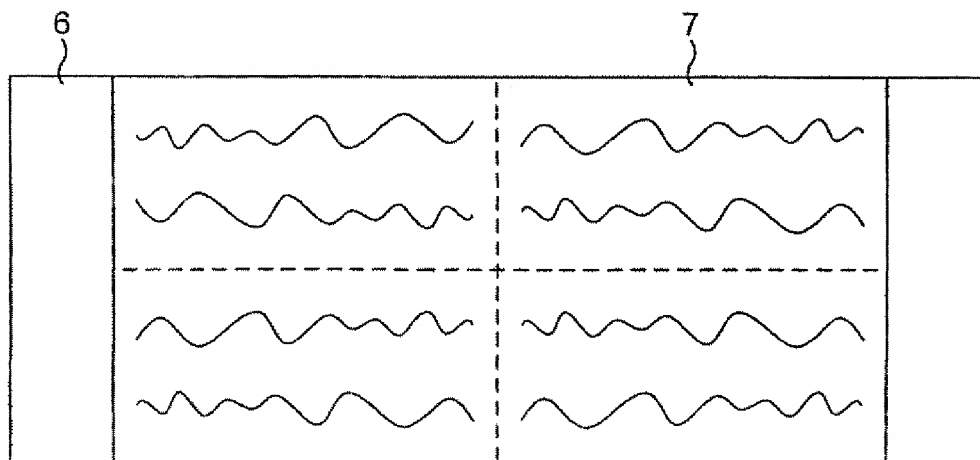


FIG. 3



2 / 3

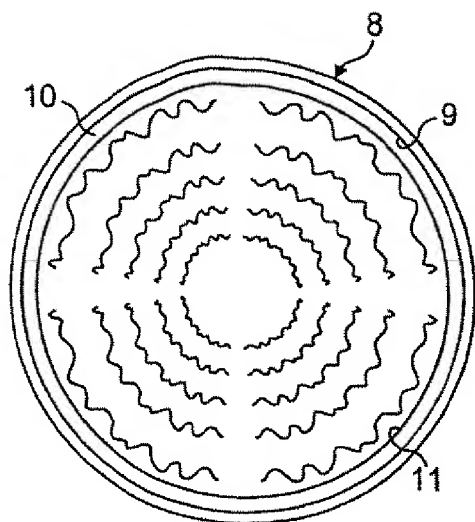


FIG. 4

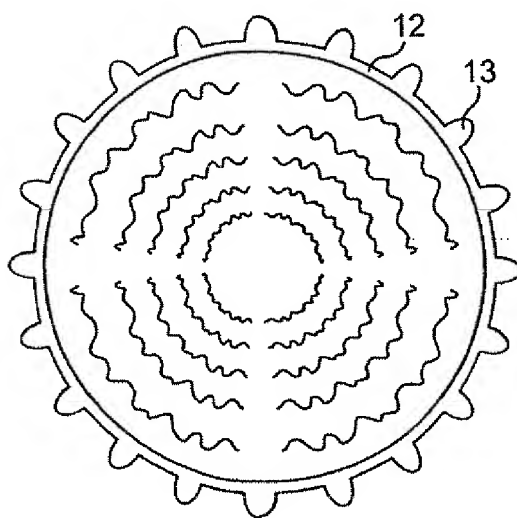


FIG. 5

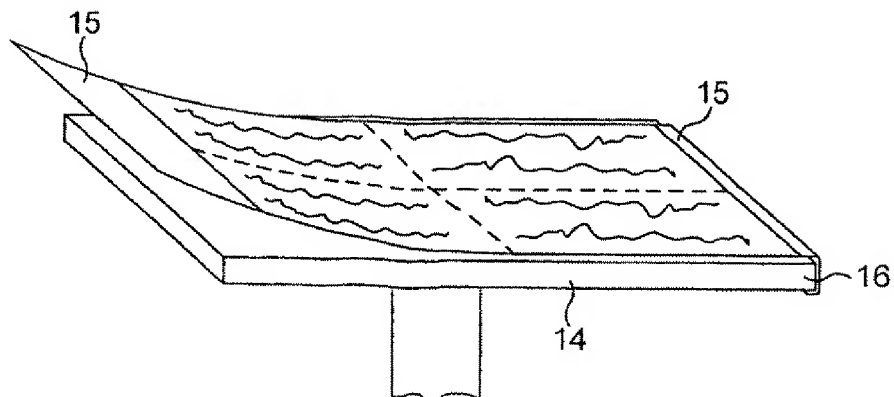


FIG. 6

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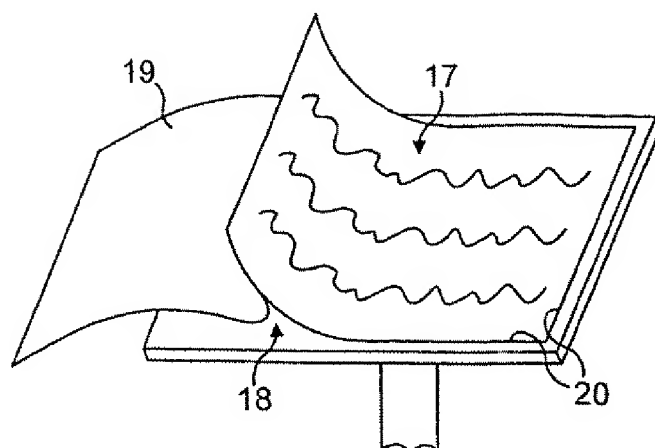


FIG. 7

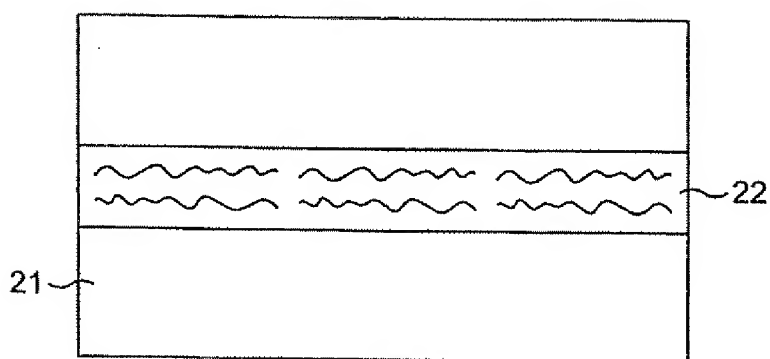


FIG. 8

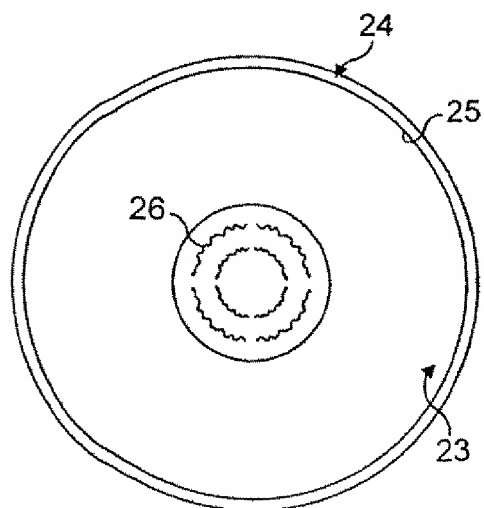


FIG. 9

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Paul CROCKER *et al.*

Appln. No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

For: **Improvements in or Relating to  
Table Coverings**

Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: P30747US00/20423.003

### **Preliminary Amendment to Priority Information and Claims**

#### **Mail Stop PCT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

***In the Specification:***

Please **add** the following new section entitled "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" beginning at page 1, line 2:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a national phase application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application Number PCT/GB2005/000075, filed January 13, 2005, which international application claims the benefit of GB Application No. 0407540.4, filed 2 April 2004; GB Application No. 0410933.6, filed 17 May 2004; GB Application No. 0411705.7, filed 26 May 2004; and GB Application No. 0412789.0, filed 9 June 2004, all of which international and GB applications are herein incorporated by reference in their entireties.

***In the claims:***

Please **amend** claims 1, 4-10, 12-20, 22, and 23 as shown below. Please **add** new claims 24 and 25.

1. (Currently amended) A covering for application to a surface top ~~comprises~~comprising

- (i) a semi-permanent adhesive layer to be in contact with the top,
- (ii) a clear carrier layer,
- (iii) a display layer which is printed on the carrier layer,

wherein the table covering is arranged such that when applied to a surface top the nature of the covering is not readily visible except for the printed area, permitting the surface top to be visible through a substantial portion of the covering.

2. (Original) A covering as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a substrate of release paper to be removed before application of the covering to a surface.

3. (Original) A table covering as claimed in Claim 1, arranged to cover substantially all of the surface top.

4. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, in which the covering is made to cover substantially the whole of the surface top, but the display layer is substantially less in area than the carrier layer.

5. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, which is of a size and/or shape suitable to extend only over a part of a surface top.

6. (Currently amended) A covering ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~according to Claim 1, in which wherein the clear carrier layer has a thickness of not more than 100 microns.

7. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 6, in which the thickness of the clear carrier layer is in the range 10 to 100 microns.
8. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 7, in which the thickness of the clear carrier layer is in the range 15 to 70 microns.
9. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, in which the clear carrier layer is a polyethylene terephthalate film.
10. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, which includes a layer of polymer film which is to protect the display layer and is glued over the display layer by means of a second layer of adhesive.
11. (Original) A covering according to Claim 10, in which the layer of polymer film is made from clear oriented polypropylene.
12. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 10 ~~or 11~~, in which the layer of polymer film has a thickness in the range 5 to 20 microns.
13. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 10, ~~11 or 12~~, in which the layer of adhesive is a clear EVA adhesive.
14. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 10, ~~11, 12 or 13~~, in which ~~wherein~~, the layer of polymer film is a material approved for food contact applications.
15. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~preceding claim~~ Claim 1, which comprises additionally a second layer of release paper on the surface of the covering opposite to said substrate, the second layer of release paper being an aid to handling of the covering during its application to a surface top.

16. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, in which the printed display layer is discontinuous.

17. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, in which the semi-permanent adhesive layer comprises a solvent-based water clear acrylic adhesive.

18. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the clear carrier layer is a polymer.

19. (Currently amended) A table covering comprising a covering ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ according to Claim 1, for application to a table, ~~in which~~ wherein said surface top is a table top.

20. (Currently amended) A method of finishing a table top which comprises providing a smooth table surface which is free of protuberances and applying to the table top a table covering ~~in accordance with any one of the preceding claims~~ according to Claim 2, the layer (i) of release paper being removed from the table covering to allow the semi-permanent adhesive layer (ii) to adhere to the table top.

21. (Original) A method of finishing a table top according to Claim 20, in which the table covering includes a second layer of release paper on the surface of the covering opposite to the said substrate, to facilitate handling of the table covering.

22. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 20 ~~or 21~~, in which the edge or edges of the table covering which are on the table top are not more than 50 mm, from the edge of the table top.

23. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 20, ~~21 or 22~~, in which the table covering is of a shape and size to wrap over a part or parts of one or more edges of the table top to which it is applied.

24. (New) A surface top covering for use in a commercial eating and/or drinking establishment by a customer using the surface top, said covering being applicable to the surface top and including a clear carrier film layer bearing a printed area forming a printed display layer constituting a promotional medium, and a semi-permanent adhesive layer to contact the surface top and to grip the surface top securely whilst the covering is in use by customers in the commercial eating and/or drinking establishment whilst not allowing the covering to be removed readily or damaged by customers and yet allowing complete removal and replacement of the covering with the carrier film layer, printed display layer and semi-permanent adhesive layer after a specified length of time.

25. (New) A method of converting a surface top into a promotional medium in a commercial eating and/or drinking establishment in which the surface top is used by customers, said method including providing a surface top covering having a clear carrier film layer bearing a printed area forming a printed display layer constituting the promotional medium, a semi-permanent adhesive layer and a layer of release paper covering the semi-permanent adhesive layer, ensuring that the surface top is clean, smooth and free of protuberances, removing the layer of release paper and applying the covering to the surface top by contacting the semi-permanent adhesive layer with the clean and smooth surface top to grip the surface top securely whilst the covering is in use by the customers whilst not allowing the covering to be removed readily or damaged by the customers and yet allowing complete removal of the covering, completely removing the covering



with the carrier film layer, printed display layer and semi-permanent adhesive layer from the surface top after a specified length of time, and replacing the removed covering by applying another surface top covering having the carrier film layer, printed display layer constituting the promotional medium and semi-permanent adhesive layer to the surface top by removing the release paper layer and contacting the semi-permanent adhesive layer with the surface top.

**Remarks**

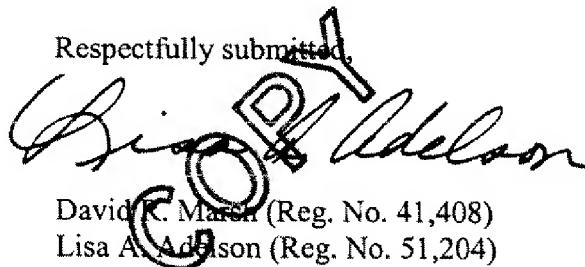
The specification has been amended to update priority information. In addition, Claims 1, 4-10, 12-20, 22, and 23 have been amended.

New Claims 24 and 25 have been added. Applicants note that Claims 24 and 25 were submitted to the International Bureau of WIPO on 5 June 2006 (see attached copy of Applicants' WIPO submission). However, as the undersigned is not aware that Claims 24 and 25 have been entered, these claims are presented herein as "new".

The captioned application presently contains Claims 1-25. Support for newly added Claims 24 and 25 may be found in the specification and original claims, for example at page 1, lines 11 through 14 and 16 through 23; page 3, lines 10 through 14; and page 3, lines 28 through 30. No new matter is added by the present Amendment. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required beyond those that are otherwise provided for in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if any additional fees are required in this application, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number P30747US00/20423.003.

Respectfully submitted,

  
David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)  
Lisa A. Adelson (Reg. No. 51,204)

Date: August 25, 2006

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